



# THE PROPAGATOR

8 Donner St.  
Holmdel, NJ 07733  
Editor: Bob Buus, W2OD

**MAY 2016**

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## UPCOMING GSARA MEETINGS

The next GSARA meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 4 at 7:30 PM** at the Red Cross. Chris, W2NQB will talk about and demonstrate his air cannon for stringing antenna wires up in trees. There will also be discussion regarding the May 15 Hamfest. Light refreshments will be served and guests are welcome.

The second meeting in May will be held on **Wednesday, May 18 at 7:30 PM** at the Red Cross. This will be a regular business meeting. Refreshments will be served and guests are always welcome.

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## GSARA NET 8:30 PM TUESDAYS

GSARA members meet on the Asbury Park repeater every Tuesday at 8:30 pm. In the four sessions in April we had 20 check-ins for an average of 5 per session. The following 10 members checked into this net at least once (number of check-ins in parenthesis):

W2OD (4), N2HGI (4), K2ARK (2), K2ARV (2), N2BMK (2), KA2F (2), W2HTS (1), K2REM (1), K2SOG (1) and KC2YNL (1).

Mark your calendar so you remember to participate. The more participation, the more fun!

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## VE TEST SESSION MAY 15

The GSARA monthly test session will be held at the Hamfest on Sunday, May 15 at 11 am. Note that because of the Hamfest, there will be no session on the fourth Saturday, May 28. The fee is \$15 and you should bring the original and a copy of any amateur license presently held and the original and one copy of any credit (CSCE) forms that you have (copies will be sent in with your test results). Also bring 2 forms of ID with one being a photo ID. For more information, contact Rich Bilon, N3RB at 732-972-1397 or [n3rb@arrl.net](mailto:n3rb@arrl.net).

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome Jim Keil, K2SOG from Matawan to the GSARA. Licensed since 2000, he holds a General class license and is active on 15/12/10 meters as well as 2M/220/440. An ARRL member, he is in law enforcement and also interested in motorcycles. Please add to your roster:

**K2SOG, Jim Keil**  
P.O. Box 118  
Matawan, NJ 07747  
732-606-3434  
[Jimk345@runbox.com](mailto:Jimk345@runbox.com)

Please also welcome Tom Malanga, KB2ZVR from Ocean, NJ. He has held a Technician license since 2006 and is active on 2M, 70 cm and DMR on UHF using an Icom 2300, Alinco DR135 and DJ500 rigs. An ARRL member whose occupation is Stationary Engineer, Tom is interested in learning more about electronics. Please add to your roster:

**KB2ZVR, Tom Malanga**  
64 Sequoia Pkwy.  
Ocean, NJ 07712  
732-636-9672  
[malangata@aol.com](mailto:malangata@aol.com)

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## MAY HAMFESTS

The OMARC tailgate Hamfest is Saturday, May 7 at the Diana Site on Marconi Road in Wall. Buyers are admitted at 8 am at a cost of \$5 per person. VE sessions are at 8:30 am and noon. Talk-in on 145.11 – PL127.3.

The GSARA Hamfest is Sunday, May 15 at the MOESC parking lot at 100 Tornillo Rd (off Shafto Road) in Tinton Falls. Vendors get one tailgate space with \$5 admission per person. Buyers are admitted at 8 am for \$5 per person. VE session starts at 11 am. Talk-in on the W2GSA repeater: 147.045 + PL67. See page 5.

## GSARA OFFICERS

President	W2HTS	Howard Suffill	460-1885
Vice Pres.	K2REM	Rem Hunnewell	889-6692
Secretary	W2OD	Bob Buus	946-8615
Treasurer	KA2F	John King	942-7705
Engineer	W2EPD	George Graulich	255-7916
Webmaster	K2CYS	Cy Stanway	768-7773
Publicity	NJ2H	Bill Shockley	207-4466
Repeater	N2LXM	Jeff Harshman	922-0816
Radio Room Phone		732-493-9100, X1252	
Trustees	W2KQ	Joe Dreifuss	493-4236
	W2OD	Bob Buus	946-8615
	W2HAM	Lou Russo	842-6431

## FRIDAY BLUE SWAN LUNCHEONS

A number of local radio amateurs meet each Friday at the Blue Swan Diner on Highway 35 south in Ocean Township at noon. Anyone interested in amateur radio is welcome to join us in the back left corner of the diner.

## PATCHES

We have GSARA patches available at all meetings and they cost \$3.

## OUTGOING QSL CARDS

If any GSARA members wish to combine their QSL cards that are going through the outgoing ARRL Bureau, please bring them to the next GSARA meeting along with the label from a recent QST Magazine (you must be an ARRL member to participate in this program). Ray, WA1FFT will then send them on to ARRL at no charge to GSARA members. It couldn't be much easier than that to QSL. You are registered at the W2 incoming bureau, aren't you?

## PROPAGATOR NOW ON THE WEB

The *Propagator* is available as a PDF file at:

<http://www.gardenstateara.org>

Click on "The Propagator" and then select the month you want.

## GSARA HOMEPAGE

<http://www.gardenstateara.org>

## HUDSON DIVISION HOME PAGE

<http://www.hudson.arrl.org>

## EDITOR'S NOTES

Wow! The article in the April issue about the FCC ban on amateur radio elicited a great response. Rem, K2REM was happy about it so he wouldn't have to coordinate future hamfests. John, KC2YWL thought such a move would reduce the divorce rate with couples spending more time together and converting the messy ham shack into a neat sewing room. Ken, K2KDC thought the opposite and that the divorce rate would go up when couples have more time together and find their interests so different. Chris, W2NQB wanted to ponder the implications as he did when Sports Illustrated reported a pitcher throwing a 140 mph fast ball. Alan, W2UTR was glad he had the foresight to buy some spectrum from a guy in Brooklyn so he wouldn't be seriously affected. I thank you all for your responses and it is good to know that *The Propagator* is being read.

Two local Hamfest are coming up in May and are only 8 days apart. First is OMARC at the Diana site on Saturday, May 7 (see page 1) and the second is our own GSARA Hamfest at our usual site on Sunday, May 15 (see pages 1 and 5). I hope that both are successful with large turnouts.

The Roseland Amateur Radio Club is celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a QSO Party on Saturday, May 14. Listen for K2GQ on 20 or 40 SSB or try to hit the WA2JSB Repeater on 2 meters. See page 7.

I suppose that newer hams are not very concerned about why electrons flow in the opposite direction of conventional current flow but it was of concern to me when I was first learning about electronics and vacuum tubes. Anyway, if you have ever wondered about this paradox, the article on page 5 should clear it up. It's interesting that Franklin knew that he was just guessing and had a 50-50 chance of being wrong. He obviously thought it would be corrected if he was proven wrong but never dreamed it would take 150 years before the charge carrier was discovered. By then, it was impossible to change the standard assumptions.

As always, I appreciate feedback or material for *The Propagator*. The deadline for the June issue is May 15.

73 de Bob, w2od@arrl.net

## MINUTES OF APRIL 6 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

President Howard Suffill, W2HTS was absent so Vice President Rem, K2REM called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM at the Red Cross. There were 15 members present. After the pledge to the flag, all present introduced themselves and commented on recent amateur radio activities.

### New Members

An application for membership was received with payment of \$17 from Jim Keil, K2SOG from Matawan. Jim has been licensed since 2000 and holds a General Class license. He chases DX on the 15, 12 and 10 meter bands and is on VHF/UHF FM. He is employed in law enforcement and is also interested in motorcycles.

An application for membership was also received with payment of \$17 from Tom Malanga, KB2ZVR from Ocean. Tom holds a Technician license which he has held since 2006. He is active on 2 meters, 70 cm and DMR UHF with an Icom 2300, Alinco DR135 and DJ500. He is a stationary Engineer, an ARRL member and interested in learning more about electronics.

A motion was made by Blair, KD2EPA and seconded by Joe, W2KQ to accept these applications. The motion passed unanimously.

### Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Joe, W2KQ and seconded by Jeff, N2LXM to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in the April Propagator. The motion passed unanimously.

### Hamfest

Rem, K2REM had flyers available for the spring GSARA Hamfest Sunday, May 15 at our usual location at the MOESC center.

### Program

The program was presented by Bob, W2OD who talked about the amateur radio license exams in the early 1950s. He distributed copies of the sample questions for the 1950 Class B (now General) exam that he studied from. He also distributed the sample questions for the Novice exam in 1953 as well as the Extra Class questions from 1953. These questions were taken from the ARRL License Manual from 1950 and 1953. Except for the Novice, the exams required the

drawing of several diagrams. All agreed that the 279 sample questions for the 100 question Extra exam were quite challenging. Since there were no operating privileges with the Extra, it is not surprising that not many people bothered to upgrade at that time.

Bob also had the first Logbook used by Phil Petersen, W2DME in 1933 and 1934. He was primarily on 160 and 5 meters.

### Close

The 50/50 of \$15 was won by Matt, W2AOJ. There being no further business, a motion was made by Jeff, N2LXM and seconded by Marty, N2BMK to adjourn the meeting which was closed at 8:44 pm.

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## MINUTES OF APRIL 20 MEETING

By Bob Buus, W2OD, Secretary

President Howard Suffill, W2HTS was absent so the meeting was called to order by VP Rem Hunnewell, K2REM at 7:35 PM at the Red Cross. There were 11 members present. After the pledge to the flag, all present introduced themselves and described any recent amateur radio activity.

### Secretary's Report

The minutes of the April 6 meeting were read by Secretary Bob, W2OD. A motion was made by Art, W2NAZ and seconded by Marty, N2BMK to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer John King, KA2F made his Treasurer's report. A motion was made by Bob, W2OD and seconded by Marty, N2BMK to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

### Public Service

OMARC is providing amateur radio communications for the upcoming NJ Marathon and will hold an information meeting about it on Saturday at 9:30 am. John, KC2YWL is interested in participating and asked what to expect since he has not done it before. Several members shared their experiences.

### Hamfest Committee

Rem, K2REM reported that he is out of Hamfest flyers and will get another 200 printed at a good price. The food vendor has not yet been determined. Both Rem and Joe have been unsuccessful in getting a solid commitment. Cy, K2CYS picked up some donated Heathkit amateur equipment which will be sold at the Hamfest.

John, KA2F attended the Succasunna Slippery Rock Hamfest to get his cards checked. The food was so-so but there were 40 vendors including KJI and Cheap Ham.

### Announcements

Art Goldberg, W2NAZ has been playing with DMR through a 440 repeater in Howell and able to communicate around the world. This might make a good future program.

Art Olson, N2AJO has been listening to remote receivers through WebSDR. It's a neat way to check how your rig sounds in distant places. This also might make a good future program.

The OMARC Hamfest is coming up on Saturday, May 7. Please support it as they support ours on Sunday, May 15.

### Close

The door prize of \$10 was won by Rem, K2REM. There being no further business, a motion was made by Art, N2AJO and seconded by Marty, N2BMK to close the meeting which was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

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### **GARRY SHANDLING, EX-KD6OY - SK**

Comedian, actor, and TV personality Garry Shandling, ex-KD6OY, died March 24 after suffering an apparent heart attack in Los Angeles. He was 66. Shandling became a ham as a teenager in the 1960s, long before he entered show business.

"When I was 13 I had a ham radio set (true!), so I could sit in my room and talk to people the world-over. Geeky? Or just ahead of my time!?" Shandling tweeted in May 2011.

Shandling grew up in Arizona and majored in electrical engineering at the University of Arizona, but he went on to earn a degree in marketing and complete some post-graduate work

in creative writing. He worked in marketing for a time, until a script he wrote for "Sanford and Son" turned into his first big break into entertainment.

His most-recent Amateur Radio license -- issued to him under a pseudonym, Dave Waddell - expired in August 2009. The call sign was KQ6KA. Shandling obtained the call sign under an assumed name, apparently so that he could get on the air without being recognized as a celebrity. Prior to KQ6KA, he held KD6OY under his real name, as well as WA7BKG in his early years as a ham.

He had an alter ego on television as well. On "It's Garry Shandling's Show," he played a comedian much like himself. "The Larry Sanders Show" followed, and in that popular HBO series, he played a late-night talk show host. Read [more](#).

From *The ARRL Letter*, March 31, 2016

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### **ORIGINAL "ELMER" W9DY - SK**

The ham radio mentor who inspired the term "Elmer" -- Elmer P. "Bud" Frohardt Jr, W9DY (ex-W9GFF), of Madison, Wisconsin -- died on March 22. He was 93. A friend and co-worker of the late Rod Newkirk, W9BRD (later VA3ZBB), who edited *QST*'s "How's DX?" column, Frohardt was the "Elmer" that Newkirk had in mind when he used the name in his March 1971 column, referring to someone who helped to mentor new Amateur Radio licensees.

"Too frequently one hears a sad story in this little nutshell: 'Oh, I almost got a ticket, too, but Elmer, W9XYZ, moved away and I kind of lost interest,'" Newkirk had written. "We need those Elmers. All the Elmers, including the ham who took the most time and trouble to give *you* a push toward your license, are the birds who keep this great game young and fresh."

On AC6V's "[Origin of Ham Speak](#)" web page, John Becker, K9MM, is quoted as saying, "Bud was very well known locally for his involvement with the RAMS (Radio Amateur Megacycle Society) radio club, and he was always helping newcomers to the hobby."

Frohardt was an ARRL Life Member. Read [more](#). -- *Thanks to The Daily DX*

From *The ARRL Letter*, March 31, 2016

## CURRENT FLOW vs ELECTRON FLOW

By Bob Buus, W2OD

Did you ever wonder why conventional current flows from positive to negative but the electrons which constitute the current flow go from negative to positive? This was a source of confusion for me in my youth. I could understand how a cathode in a vacuum tube would boil off electrons which would flow to the plate or anode of the tube. But the conventional current flow through a vacuum tube was from plate to cathode. Using a vacuum rectifier in a power supply, the plate or anode would be connected to the ac voltage and the cathode would produce the positive dc output voltage. How confusing!

Actually, the problem was created by Ben Franklin in his early electrical experiments in 1746. At that time, there were two known types of static electricity. Vitreous electricity was produced on a glass plate by rubbing it with silk. Resinous electricity was produced on an amber rod by rubbing it with fur. These two types of electricity were physically attracted to each other.

Leyden jars had been invented the previous year. These were capacitors that could store static electricity. They were made from a jar or bottle with a metal foil covering the outside for one electrode and metal foil (or water) on the inside for the second electrode. Two conductors separated by an insulator (glass) makes a capacitor that can store charge. Franklin conducted many experiments with Leyden jars (in fact, he called a collection of Leyden jars a "battery"). He noticed that if he charged the inside of a Leyden jar with vitreous electricity and charged the outside of another Leyden jar with resinous electricity, the jars behaved the same.

From that observation, Franklin proposed that there was only one type of electricity and hypothesized that the vitreous electricity was simply an excess of charge and that resinous electricity was simply a shortage or lack of charge. Thus he proposed that the virtuous charge was positive and the resinous charge negative. He added that this was just a guess since he had no way to determine which direction this charge flowed. He thought that other experimenters in the future would measure this flow and correct his assumption if he had guessed wrong.

Well, it took until 1892 before J. J. Thompson discovered that the charge carrier was the electron and it had a negative charge based on the traditional definition of positive and negative proposed by Franklin and used for nearly 150 years. Had Franklin guessed the opposite (that resinous electricity was positive), the electron would have been found to have a positive charge by Thompson and the conventional current flow would then be consistent with the electron flow. And I would have been less confused in my youth. So now you know.

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### NJ MARATHON SUNDAY, MAY 1

The NJ Marathon is **Sunday, May 1 starting at 8:00 a.m.** The starting line is at Monmouth Park and the finish line is roughly at Pier Village, Long Branch. You can volunteer as much time as you can spare. All communication operations will use the GSARA Repeater (and OMARC repeater as a backup).

Go to [thenewjerseyshoremarchon.com](http://thenewjerseyshoremarchon.com) for more information and a race route map showing mile markers and other key locations.

As of press time, three GSARA members have volunteered to help.

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### GSARA HAMFEST

Sunday, May 15, 2016

8 am to 12 pm

The tradition continues

MOESC parking lot

100 Tornillo Rd. (off Shafto Rd.), Tinton Falls, NJ

#### Admission:

Vendors 7 am, \$5.00 per person

**NO CHARGE first space**, with \$5 admission

\$10.00 each additional space

Buyers 8 am, \$5.00 per person

VE Session – Starts at 11 am

Entertainment

Food and hot and cold Beverages

50/50s and door prizes

Demonstrations

Talk-in – W2GSA Repeater: 147.045 + PL 67

For Additional Information and Pre-registration

Rem Hunnewell K2REM 732-889-6692

Email to: [Hamfest@GardenStateARA.org](mailto:Hamfest@GardenStateARA.org)

<http://www.GardenStateARA.org/Hamfest>

## MS COAST THE COAST BIKE-A-THON

Please reserve 21-22 May 2016 for the MS Coast-the-Coast bike-a-thon. It's a whole new group organizing this for 2016 and your help will be appreciated. Thanks.

### Here are the rest stops Saturday:

Monmouth U Field House, West Long Branch  
Belmar Triangle, Ocean and First, Belmar  
Brielle Cyclery, 205 Union Ave, Brielle  
Centennial Park, Bay Blvd & Philadelphia Ave,  
Lavallette  
Washington St School, 500 West Earl Ct, Toms  
River  
Cedar Creek School, 220 Western Blvd, Lanoka  
Harbor  
Ocean County Vo-Tech, 423 Wells Mills Rd,  
Waretown  
Warren Grove FD, 1306 Main St CR 539,  
Barnegat  
Pinelands Middle School, 590 Nugentown Rd,  
Little Egg Harbor

### Sunday Rest Stops:

Pinelands Middle School  
Lower Bank Tavern, 1509 Route 542 Egg Harbor  
City  
Port Republic General Store, 205 Clarks Landing  
Rd, Port Republic  
Linwood Bike Path, 113 Chestnut Ave,  
Pleasantville  
Ocean City Primary, 550 W Ocean Ave, Ocean  
City  
Sea Isle Ambulance Corp, 201 JFK Blvd, Sea Isle  
City  
Avalon Center, 3001 Avalon Ave, Avalon  
American Legion, 4200 Atlantic Ave, Wildwood  
Chief's Club, USCG Training Center, 1 Munro  
Ave, Cape May NJ  
Tom Cosgrove  
Past Captain RBVFA Squad, EMT-B  
N2VFK  
SKYWARN Spotter LME002

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## GSARA WANTS YOUR QSL CARD

Garden State A.R.A. wants YOUR QSL Card for the Display of Member Cards in the Club Station. You can bring your card to a meeting, scan it and send a copy to [ka2fwb2hdj@gmail.com](mailto:ka2fwb2hdj@gmail.com), or mail it to John King, KA2F, 18 Carmel Way, Eatontown, NJ 07724.

## THE DOCTOR IS IN PODCAST

A new episode of "[ARRL The Doctor is In](#)" podcast is available now: Does CW Really Get Through When Nothing Else Can?

Sponsored by [DX Engineering](#), "ARRL The Doctor is In" is an informative discussion of all things technical. Listen on your computer, tablet, or smartphone -- whenever and wherever you like!

Every 2 weeks your host, *QST* Editor in Chief Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and the Doctor himself, Joel Hallas, W1ZR, will discuss a broad range of technical topics. You can also e-mail your questions to [doctor@arrl.org](mailto:doctor@arrl.org), and they may answer them in a future podcast.

Enjoy "ARRL The Doctor is In" on [Apple iTunes](#), or by using your iPhone or iPad podcast app (just search for ARRL The Doctor is In). You can also listen online at [Blubrry](#), or at [Stitcher](#) (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices.

If you've never listened to a podcast before, download our [beginner's guide](#).

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 21, 2016

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## ARRL REVIEWING OO PROGRAM

The ARRL Executive Committee has directed the Headquarters staff to "review and evaluate the Official Observer (OO) program, solicit input from the field organization, and explore areas of possible improvement including in the area of training for OOs." ARRL Second Vice President Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, will oversee the study. The action stemmed from a discussion during the EC's [March 12 meeting](#) in Westlake, Texas. At the meeting, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, observed that there have been "several positive developments" with respect to FCC enforcement, since the EC last met in October 2015. But with the closure of some FCC field offices and the retirement of several experienced engineers who have been helpful with enforcement matters in the past, the EC discussed how the OO program might be better positioned to help the FCC. A preliminary report is due at the EC's October meeting.

From *The ARRL Letter*, March 31, 2016

## NORTH KOREA P5/3Z9DX APPROVED

The ARRL DXCC Department has approved for DXCC credit the unexpected P5/3Z9DX "demonstration" operation from North Korea last December. Well-traveled Polish DXer Dom Grzyb, 3Z9DX, has said he expects to be back in North Korea -- officially the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) -- for his "official" activation by late summer.

P5/3Z9DX showed up on the air from the most-wanted DXCC entity last December 20 and 21 to demonstrate Amateur Radio for North Korean officials. During that activation -- the first in more than a decade -- P5/3Z9DX made nearly 785 SSB contacts, most of them on 15 meters.

Some unsubstantiated claims were floated following the pre-Christmas P5/3Z9DX operation that Grzyb was not really operating from North Korea. Read [more](#).

From *The ARRL Letter*, March 31, 2016

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## ARRL REPLACES LOST QSTs

When a recent train collision and derailment in Wyoming destroyed precisely 1086 copies of the April edition of *QST* on its way to some members living in the ARRL Southwestern Division, it was all hands on deck to quickly replace the issues, which are being sent via First Class mail. ARRL contacted the affected members by e-mail to let them know. Local reports indicated that there were no fatalities or serious injuries from the train collision. If your *QST* ever should be lost or late - - whether due to a train wreck or other postal mishap -- [contact](#) Circulation/Member Services Manager Yvette Vinci, KC1AIM, telephone (860) 594-0257. -- *Thanks to Sean Kutzko, KX9X*

From *The ARRL Letter*, March 31, 2016

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## ROSELAND ARC 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The Roseland Amateur Radio Club in northern New Jersey is celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a QSO party on Saturday, May 14 from 10 am to 4 pm. Listen for K2GQ on 20 and 40 Meter SSB as well as on 2 meter FM on the WA2JSB repeater. For more information, go to <http://www.k2gq.org>

## IRAQ ON AIR BUT SO IS PIRATE

Iraq has two new hams -- Salam, YI1SAL, and Wahhab, YI3WHR. YI1SAL has been active on 20 and 40 meters SSB, apparently using dipoles. YI3WHR has been active on 20 meter SSB. Both operators are likely not yet used to pileups. In the meantime, the YI1RQ club station call sign continues to be bootlegged, reportedly by someone calling himself Hassan. For years now "Hassan" has been using multiple unauthorized call signs, including, but not limited to YI1HR, YI1H, YI1HRP, and YI1HI. More recently, he has also pirated YI1BGD, YI1RQ, and YI1DZ, all legitimate call signs. The real YI1DZ has been out of the country for quite a while now. Elsewhere, someone has been pirating the call sign EP3FS. This bogus station has been reported since early March on SSB on 40, 20, and 15 meters. -- *Thanks to The Daily DX*

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 14, 2016

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## KINGMAN REEF (KH5) DELETED

The ARRL Awards Committee has voted to delete Kingman Reef (KH5) from the DXCC List, effective March 29, 2016. Kingman Reef will be added to the Deleted Entities List on March 29, 2016. The total number of entities on the List will drop from 340 to 339. The deletion process is described in DXCC Rules Section II DXCC List Criteria, Part 5(a) Deletion Criteria.

*"An entity may be deleted from the List if it no longer satisfies the criteria under which it was added."*

Kingman Reef's original addition by virtue of separate administration has changed (separate administration by the US Navy has been removed), and the reef does not meet any current criteria to remain on the List. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS) administers Kingman Reef and Palmyra Island. The reef is too close to Palmyra Island to count as a separate entity and now will be considered a part of the Palmyra/Jarvis DXCC entity.

Prior to its deletion, Kingman Reef was the seventh most-wanted DXCC entity, according to ClubLog. It was last activated as K5K in 2000. Read [more](#).

From *The ARRL Letter*, March 31, 2016

## THE 'OTHER' HEARD ISLAND – VK0LD

The recently ended Heard Island [VK0EK DXpedition](#) logged more than 75,000 contacts, but the brief, under-the-radar, contemporaneous VK0LD operation also put a new one into a few more logs. VK0EK logistics team member Mike Coffey, KJ4Z, operated as VK0LD from California, remotely controlling one of the VK0EK Elecraft K3S operating positions. He used a K3/0-Mini and the free [RemoteHams.com RCForb](#) client and remote server software to work 41 stations on 20 meters.

"More than a year before the *Braveheart* set sail, I knew I wanted to try to operate a remote ham radio station from Heard Island during the VK0EK DXpedition," Coffey said. "Co-organizers Bob Schmieder, KK6EK, and Rich Holoch, KY6R, were enthusiastic and gave me the green light." From Tennessee, Coffey, who was off the air from 2003 until 2014, is once again active from California, and, he said on his QRZ.com profile, "eager to make up for lost time."

Lacking the expertise to set up and configure the equipment and connection for the remote operation, Coffey approached Elecraft, which supplied the K3S transceivers for VK0EK. Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ, and Brandon Hansen, KG6YPI, introduced him to the Elecraft K3/0-Mini remote control panel -- basically a K3 front panel sans radio -- combined with Hansen's RemoteHams.com software. Leading up to the DXpedition he conducted tests from Elecraft to verify that operation with a satellite connection and the Remote Hams *RCForb* client software was possible.

On April 4, VK0LD transmitted its first CQ from Heard Island on 20 meter CW, with Coffey at the helm from his home in Palo Alto. "Over the course of the next 50 minutes, VK0LD logged 41 QSOs across Asia and then Europe as the band began to open up," he recounted. Alan Cheshire, VK6CQ, is the licensee of VK0LD.

On [DX Summit](#), one Australian station declared VK0LD to be a pirate. "NOT a pirate!" KY6R posted in response.

"Finally, control was handed back over to regular VK0EK operations," Coffey said. "But for 50 minutes, I was having the amazing, incredible experience of working a pileup from a

Top 10 DXCC entity on the other side of the world." Coffey said the K3/0 setup made it "almost like being there."

"I was sorry to stop," he said. "I would have happily worked the pileup for hours." -- *Thanks to Elecraft via Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ*

From *The ARRL Letter*, April 21, 2016

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## TEN YEARS AGO

From the May 2006 Propagator: Past GSARA President John Orr, W2RU became a silent key on March 29 at the age of 66. The Sudoku puzzles did not go over very well so they will no longer be in the Propagator. There seems to be little interest in puzzles of any kind in The Propagator.

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## FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

From the May 2001 Propagator: Chief Engineer Marty Szumera, WN2DX is planning a big Field Day event at Tatum Park in June. To encourage new members, a GSARA application was included with the Propagator. The Hamfest committee is looking at using the Red Cross site on West Park Avenue for the Fall Hamfest site.

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## TWENTY YEARS AGO

From the May, 1996 Propagator: John Mulhern, N2GOF became a silent key. John was first licensed in January 1920 with the call 2OP and operated on Sandy Hook with a spark transmitter. Four Public Service events are coming up in May where GSARA has been asked to provide communications. The solar flux is at the bottom of the cycle so propagation is poor.

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## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

The April-May 1991 Propagator was covered last month.

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## THIRTY YEARS AGO

From the May 1986 Propagator: Pete Becker, N2PB became a silent key on April 7, 1986. Many GSARA members helped with communication at the Sandy Hook Walk for Mankind. Steve Mendelsohn, WA2DHF (SK) is guest speaker at the May 7 meeting.

## NOTES ON CALENDAR (see next page)

Large Call letters denote birthdays e.g. **N2JFL** May 5. All times are EDST. Contests are listed in the May QST, p. 79.

May 1 – **NJ Marathon** starting at 8 am from Monmouth Park and ending near Pier Village. See page 5.

May 1 and every Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday – **InfoAge Marconi Hotel** open from 1 to 5 pm on Marconi Road in Wall.

May 2 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 pm

May 3 - **WIAW Qualifying Run** at 7 pm (10-35 wpm). See May 2016 QST page 97 and [www.arrl.org/qualifying-run-schedule](http://www.arrl.org/qualifying-run-schedule)

May 3 – **Old Barney VE Session** at 6:30 pm in Manahawkin. Contact Urb Le Jeune, W1UL at 609-296-5856 or [urb@w2dec.com](mailto:urb@w2dec.com)

May 3 – **Old Barney ARC Meeting** at 7:30 pm in Manahawkin, NJ. See <http://www.obarc.org>

May 3 and every following Tuesday – **GSARA Net** on 147.045 PL=67 at 8:30 pm.

May 3 and every following Tuesday – **QCWA News Net** on 147.045 PL=67 at 9:00 pm.

May 4 – **GSARA Program Meeting** at 7:30 pm at the Red Cross. Chris, W2NQB will demonstrate and talk about using an air cannon to string antennas up in trees. Light refreshments will be served.

May 5 - **HCARC meeting** at 7 pm at Holiday City South Clubhouse in Toms River.

May 6 and every Friday – **Lunch at the Blue Swan Diner** in Ocean at noon. Table at back left of Diner.

May 7 – **OMARC Hamfest** at Diana Site in Wall. 8:00 am to noon, \$5 per person. See page 1.

May 7-8 – **ARI International DX Contest**, all modes from 8 am Saturday to 7:59 am Sunday. See <http://www.ari.it>

May 7 – **FISTS Slow Speed CW Sprint** from 1 to 5 pm. See <http://www.fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints>

May 9 - **Monmouth County RACES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 pm.

May 11– **Holiday City VE Session** at 7 pm in Toms River. Contact is Larry Puccio, K2QDY at 732-349-2950 or e-mail at [lpuccio1@comcast.net](mailto:lpuccio1@comcast.net)

May 12 – **JSARS meeting** in Riverwood Park Rec. Building, Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive at 7:30 pm.

May 14-15 – **CQ-M International DX Contest, CW and SSB** from 8 am Saturday to 7:59 am Sunday. See <http://www.cq-m.ru/en/rules.html>

May 14 – **OMARC Meeting** at 9:00 am at the Diana Site on Marconi Road in Wall. Guests welcome.

May 14 – **50 MHz Spring Sprint**, all modes from 7 to 11 pm. See <http://sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints>

May 15 – **GSARA Hamfest** at MOESC from 8 am to noon. See pages 1 or 5 or go to <http://www.gardenstateara.org/hamfest>

May 15 – **GSARA VE Test Session** at 11 am at the Hamfest in Tinton Falls. See page 1.

May 16 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 pm

May 18 – **GSARA Meeting** at 7:30 pm at the Red Cross in Tinton Falls. Regular business meeting.

May 19– **JSARS VE Test Session** at 7:00 pm Riverview Park Recreation Bldg., Rt. 527 and Riverwood Drive in Toms River. Contact Ed Genoino, WA2NDA at 609-971-2792 or [wa2nda@comcast.net](mailto:wa2nda@comcast.net).

May 20 – **WIAW Qualifying Run** at 9 am (10-35 wpm). See May 2016 QST page 97 and <http://www.arrl.org/qualifying-run-schedule>

May 20-22 – **Dayton Hamvention** at Hara Arena, Dayton, OH. See <http://www.hamvention.org>

May 21-22 – **MS 170 Bike-a-Thon**. Volunteers needs. See Tom, N2VFK and page 6.

May 23 - **Monmouth County ARES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 pm.

May 27-29 – **CQ WW WPX Contest, CW** from 8 pm Friday to 7:59 pm Sunday. See <http://www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm>

May 30 – **Monmouth County RACES Net** meets on 147.045 +600, PL=67.0 at 7:30 pm.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 NJ Marathon InfoAge	2 ARES/RACES 7:30	3 CW Qual. Run OBARC GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	4 GSARA Mtg.	5 N2JFL HCARC Mtg.	6 Blue Swan lunch	7 OMARC Hamfst ARI DX FISTS Slow CW
8 ARI DX InfoAge	9 RACES Net 7:30	10 GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	11 Hol. City VE	12 JSARS Mtg	13 Blue Swan lunch	14 OMARC Mtg CQ-M DX 50 MHz Sprint
15 GSARA Hamfest CQ-M DX InfoAge	16 K2KDC K2REM ARES/RACES 7:30	17 GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	18 GSARA Mtg.	19 JSARS VE.	20 CW Qual. Run Blue Swan lunch Dayton	21 MS Bike-a-thon Dayton
22 Dayton N2BMK MS Bike-a-thon InfoAge	23 ARES/RACES 7:30	24 GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM	25	26	27 Blue Swan lunch CQ WPX CW	28 CQ WPX CW
29 CQ WPX CW InfoAge	30 RACES Net 7:30	31 KG2CM GSARA Net 8:30 QCWA News 9 PM				



G.S.A.R.A.

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FIRST CLASS